

Voiage Dental

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Good Morning Chair Haines and Members of the Committee.

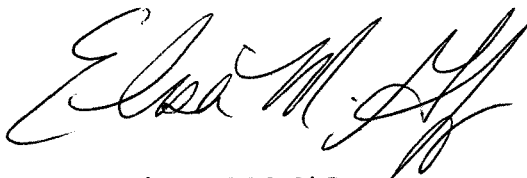
My name is Dr. Elisa Ghezzi and I am a dentist and the chair of the Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging here today to testify in support of the pending substitute for HB 4718. I am a supervising dentist for a collaborative practice within the Coalition for Oral Health for the Aging, a result of PA 161, 2005. As a dentist, I know firsthand the importance of an assistant in efficiently and effectively providing oral healthcare. Currently in collaborative practice instead of a hygienist being assisted by an assistant as is done in a private practice, in collaborative practice I watch hygienists assisting hygienists. There is a much more efficient way to accomplish all that we do in collaborative practice without using two highly skilled professionals to assist one another.

The bill for 2nd pair of hands for a hygienist is important because it will allow an assistant to provide assistance to a hygienist. This is the standard of practice in private practice in dental offices because it is the most effective use of the training of each member of the dental team.

It is important to realize that there is no increase in scope of practice for the assistant being proposed. A second pair of hands is ancillary to the person doing the actual procedure.

It is better for the public to have an assistant providing the assistance to a hygienist in collaborative practice because it will increase the number of patients treated by each hygienist at a lower cost. Instead of each patient seen by two hygienists, each hygienist will treat a patient utilizing the assistance of an assistant as each are trained to work.

Thank you for your consideration.



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